beign supplied to the Ramgarh plant contains high concentration of Nitrogen which does not contribute to heat energy/ power generation; and

(c) if so, whether Government would examine the Rajasthan Government's request to review the price of the Ramgarh gas plant and notify the concessional rate for the same to boost gas utilisation from small gasfield in Rajasthan; if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BALLU): (a) The price of gas is Rs. 1850 per thousand cubic metres excluding royalty, taxes & transportation charges. In the North-East, the price is Rs. 1000 per thousand cubic metres with the provision of a discount of Rs. 400 per thousand cubic metre.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Ramgarh Plant is entitled to pay a lower price of gas appropriate to the low calorific value.

Petroleum Exploration Licencing Policy

4365. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the new petroleum exploration licencing policy being put in place of the existing one, as enunciated by Prime Minister at a conference at Goa recently;

(b) in what way it differs from the existing system and the details of benefits which would accrue from it;

(c) the areas of exploration which would be offered under the new system;

(d) whether on-shore and off-shore areas offers would be clubbed or be put up separately under the new system; and

(e) the details of the likely investment under the new system on on-shore and off-shore exploration?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BALLU): (a) and (b) The salient features of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) announced recently are given below:—

— Open availability of exploration acreage in addition to existing bidding rounds.
— Oil and Natural Gas Corp. Ltd. and Oil India Ltd. to compete for obtaining exploration licences on competitive basis alongwith other private sector companies.
— Oil and Natural Gas Corp. Ltd. and Oil India Ltd. to be provided a level playing field by providing same fiscal and contract terms as available for private companies.
— Special package to encourage exploration in deep water and frontier areas.
— Freedom to contractors for marketing of crude oil and gas in the domestic market.

(c) and (d) Both on-shore and off-shore areas will be offered under NELP depending upon their availability.

(e) It is too early to estimate the amount of investment under NELP.

Supply of Kerosene oil below National Average

4366. SHRI JANARDAN YADAV: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal and Orissa are Supplied kerosene in quantities, much below the national average; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BALLU): (a) and (b) Kerosene is allocated to the States/UTs on a historical basis, i.e based on past allocations and consumption. The per capita availability of kerosene in the States of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Orissa